

Appl. No. 10/736,863
Amendment dated 6/20/2006

Remarks:

As an initial matter, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the interview conducted June 14, 2006.

In the Final Office Action dated May 5, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 29-32, 34-38 and 40-49 under 35 USC §102 and/or §103 based on Balat et al. (US 4,258,724). In response, Applicants have amended independent claims 29, 35 and 41 to more clearly distinguish over the cited art. Specifically, the independent claims have been amended to recite that the lumen of the lead extends from a proximal entry port to a distal exit port, and that the tether extends through the proximal entry port and the lumen of the lead. These features are neither disclosed nor fairly taught by Balat et al.

Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. Any inquiry regarding this matter may be directed to the undersigned representative at (612) 226-3874.

Respectfully submitted,
Atkinson et al.
By their attorney,

Date: 6/20/06



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